

ARKANSAS DIAMOND



PRESIDENT Roger Alaback _____ KF5SDE

ARKANSAS DIAMOND RADIO CLUB NEWS LETTER VOLUME NO. 36 DATE JULY 13 2021



Thursday Thursday **Thursday** Thursday

Testing

THE CLUB MEETING WILL BE AT

DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

100 WEST CHURCH ST.

MORRILTON

Remember the club meeting at 6pm on

Thursday the 13th.

We will start gathering about 4:30pm for food and fellowship.

SHARON CLARKSON, KF5DAD

is in charge of food

Jim will have the magic box (testing supplies) in case someone wants to test. He hopes to see a big turnout. This will be our first meeting in the new the year. Club dues paid now due for 2022 only \$10 for one \$15 for family.

Have a great day.

Jim AF5EI

If you are coming or might come email Jim

AF5EI@AF5EI.COM

The cost is going to go way up like over \$50.

We haven't got the word yet so it is still a bargain at \$15.

We will test Tuesday night or any Saturday if you can contact AF5EI and he can get 2 more VEs to help.

Local Nets

Morrilton Monday Night
444.10 14.8 tone 7:00

146.625 114.8 8:00

Tues Perry County
447.150 100 8:00

Faulkner County Thur
146.97 114.8 7:30

Thursday 8pm 146.510
THE A D A R C 2m
SIMPLEX NET.
RELAYS ARE WELCOME

From the desk of Roger Alabach KF5SDE

President's comments

Well 2022 is here and hopefully we will get back to having regular meetings. At time of this writing it is about 25 degrees outside and getting colder. I have lit a fire in my fireplace insert so thankfully my living room is toasty warm. I am hopeful we will find a place to have play day and possibly a place to participate in Winter Field day. We will talk more about this at our meeting on Thursday the 13th. If you have any suggestions please express them at our meeting. With the new year I want to remind everyone to pay your dues if you haven't done so already. The club is not broke by any means but for a mere 10 dollars you are showing your support. I very much want to have more club activities this year.

Looking at the hamfest calendar it seems like many of these events are returning. I haven't heard anything about Russellville though. Lucky Jim

**The Arkansas Diamond Radio Club
(KE5FSY) of Morrilton News Letter**

This bulletin is published 4 times a year for the promotion of HAM radio. Ham radio is for enjoyment and is the emergency back bone of communication for the communities. When all else fails we will be there, we have in the past and will be in the future.

Editors are KD5LBE Stewart Nelson

All HAM related stories are welcome.

and I have a great time participating. Hopefully there won't be any cancellations.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 13th. Stay safe and get on the air. Its fun. 73 KF5SDE

ARKANSAS NETS OF INTEREST for Generals

Arkansas Razorback Net, 3987.5, 5:25 PM daily, Net Manager, KC5SM Carolyn McKeel from Brookland Ar

Arkansas Phone Net, 3987.5, 6:00 AM, Monday thru Saturday, Net Manager, Doug Robbins, W5DUG

Arkansas Mockingbird Net, 3927, 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday, Net Manager, Jerry Palmer, W5JEP

Arkansas Razorback Emergency Training Net, 3987.5, Sunday, 7:00 AM,

Our +favorite HAM radio Internet Web Sites

Three good ones are
www.ARRL.org
www.ARR.org/QST
www.eHam.com
www.QRZ.com
www.YouTube.com



Join or Renew Today! Eligible US-based members can elect to receive QST or On the Air magazine in print when they join ARRL or when they renew their membership. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ. QST is the monthly membership journal of ARRL. Each issue is your source for equipment reviews, technical tips, projects, and news. NCJ is published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint and QSO Parties. On the Air is for delivering introductory techniques and stories to help anyone with a beginner-to-intermediate-level of experience. QEX is published bimonthly, it features technical articles, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals. (This information is copied from the ARRL web site)

Jim AF5EI

Thanks to Charlie Tudor, N5EH, our meeting on January 13th will be at the Downtown Church of Christ, 100 West Main Street, Morrilton. The meeting will start at 6pm. Fellowship will start about 5pm. Still looking into a menu. Sharon Clarkson, KF5DAD, has offered to provide food, checking to see if we can have food there.

Have a several of things to bring up at the meeting.

- 1) Officers for the new year
- 2) Emergency Communications Response Team
- 3) Donation to church
- 4) Winter Field Day, if and where
- 5) Getting new HAMS on the air
- 6) Anything else members wish to discuss

If there is something you would like to add to the agenda, let me know.

Have a great day.

From the News Letter Editor Stewart KD5LBE,

One of the hardest parts about being a new HAM is getting on the air and being comfortable doing it. Learning the etiquette and pushing the transmit button for the first time and saying CQ and giving your call sign might even be harder than taking the test.

For new HAMS, Winter Field Day can be used as that day to make your first contact or the get more comfortable being of the air or whatever and seeing how

it is done. On Field Day you call CQ or answer using the clubs call sign KE5FSY so no matter your license class you can get on the air. A TECH can work the Extra bands.

When you work in the HF bands 160 to 10 meters and 50 you learn to work pileups which is when everyone wants to answer a call at the same time. The first words you learn is QRZ, I am looking for someone to answer my call, someone call me. To complete the call you say, QSL did you copy me?

When there is a pileup do you try to be first or last? You may set your frequency slightly off so that your voice may sound a little different than everyone else. If a YL, lady, answers she has a better chance to get a response than a man. Normally when you answer another HAM you give their call sign and then yours so they know you are calling them. During Field Day you may only give your call sign, KE5FSY. I was asked a question one time, "How do I get the calling station to answer me?", my response was to keep trying. Since the contacts are quick, the station you are trying to reach is only going to be engaged for just a few seconds to the other station they are talking to and you will get to try again.

Often times the other HAM is running 1000 watts on a 100 foot tower and you are running 100 watts on a thrown up antenna long wire so don't expect to be easily picked out of a crowd, but keep trying.

One of my suggestions is to never start at the beginning of a contest give the early birds the first two hours, when they get tired you be ready to go. Another les-

son is to listen for the station to call QRZ (looking for someone to answer me), twice, that means they will be listening hard for that one call even in the static. You need to remember that if you can't hear them clearly, they may not be able to hear you clearly or at all. Just because you can hear one station you may not be able to hear both stations. Not everyone does but I wouldn't try to call unless I heard an invitation to call. When I am using my personal call sign, I might just call, "Is this band in use" and wait to see if anyone answers.

If most of your working on a radio is FM or Digital you are use to no static and clear transmissions. In HF it is dirty and noisy.

A lot of HAMs that get their General License wonder' how do I make my first contact or where do I get started. The easiest way is contests, like Winter Field Day. Remember on Winter Field Day you use the Clubs call sign. Contests mean someone is trying to roll up a bunch of stations to write into their contest contact book. Your chances are much better in making a new contact. QST, the ARRL monthly mag, has a list of the coming contests for the next month. In all contests there is an exchange of some kind. It might be when did you get your first license, 7/21/2000 for me. If you hear a pile up listen for the exchanges taking place. It might be just you call sign and the number of stations at your location "1ARK" one transmitter in Arkansas then you say "QRZ" did you copy my last transmission? I usually listen to other people talking to the other station so I am sure of the other stations call sign before I make my first call. Contesters often sign off wishing to other HAM good

luck in the contest.

Another thing you might do is listen late at night or early the next morning. In the past I have made more contacts early in the morning of the next day in a contest than I did in the “prime” time, and there are a lot of hungry HAMs looking for someone to talk to.

If you want to talk to one of those foreign stations, “DX”ing, they live in a different time zone than us so late night for us is a great time for them. I have operated DX on Petit Jean Mountain at 5AM on a mobile HF radio in my truck. When some one asks me what kind of antenna I have I tell them a 1000 foot mobile antenna.

Ham radios are great to look at on a desk but unless you use them they are expensive room decorations.

HELP

From KD5LBE

Many of the HAMs who get this news letter also check into some net somewhere morning, noon, or night. It might be a traditional 2 meter FM net, an HF net, or a Digital Net. It may be a CW (code net fast or slow speed). As far as I know there are no lists for Central Arkansas Nets so lets start one using yoursuggestions. If you will email me at, we can start the list. -----oldmayor@sbcglobal.net

This was taken from the ARRL News Letter

ARRL Surveying Field Day Participants

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee is seeking input from stations and groups that participated in ARRL Field Day 2020 and 2021 and has posted a survey. The committee said the survey results may help shape the development of Field Day rules for 2022 and beyond. The survey has already been sent via email to some 13,000 Field Day participants, more than 2,400 Affiliated Clubs, and to the CQ-Contest and VHF-Contesting Reflectors.

“Specifically, as we look toward 2022 Field Day, health and social-distancing concerns may continue in June 2022 during the ongoing world pandemic,” said ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. “For 2023 and beyond, the assumption is made that the pandemic will be over, and COVID-related restrictions will be relaxed.”

Jahnke said the Programs and Services Committee invites participants’ insights, in advance of its January meeting, regarding what they consider appropriate for operating ARRL Field Day 2022 during the ongoing pandemic. The committee hopes to learn if participants prefer to continue Field Day under the pandemic accommodations afforded in 2020 and 2021, which included limiting home stations to the Low Power multiplier (150 W PEP), and whether stations in some classes or all other classes should be limited to 150 W PEP as well. Field Day stations operating at high power became the

topic of some discussion in the wake of Field Day 2021, when some stations were reported to be running the legal limit on FT8 on crowded bands.

The committee is also interested in views on the 150 W versus 100 W change in the Field Day Low Power category definition, which is being implemented across all contest platforms.

During 2020 and 2021, ARRL permitted a couple of basic accommodations in the Field Day rules during the COVID outbreak.

Participants who could not or did not want to be in a group were allowed to operate from their home stations and contribute their individual scores to their club's Field Day aggregate score. Members' scores were combined to achieve an overall final club score, which then appeared in the ARRL Field Day results summary in QST and on the ARRL website.

In addition, Class D (Home, commercial power) stations were allowed to contact other Class D stations for point credit.

In 2021, Class D and Class E (Home, emergency power) stations were limited to a maximum transmitter output power of 150 W PEP (Low Power). The idea here was to minimize the advantage of well-established home stations with superior antenna systems and running up to the legal 1,500 W PEP limit.

Field Day participants may use this survey link or copy this URL into a web browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022--ARRL-FIELD-DAY-SURVEY>

The survey will close on January 17, 2022. Direct any questions to the ARRL Contest Department.

New Potential Tech License Candates

You know or are helping a to get ready for their first HAM license. You better rush it up because there is going to be a change in the test questions. While you only have answer 26 of the 37 asked it can be a challenge if if you get one of the new questions that you haven't studied. The new pool becomes the study questions on July 1.

There are over 420 questions.

Which of the following frequency ranges are available for phone operation by Technician licensees?

- A. 28.050 MHz to 28.150 MHz
- B. 28.100 MHz to 28.300 MHz
- C. 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz**
- D. 28.500 MHz to 28.600 MHz

Which Q signal indicates that you are receiving interference from other stations?

- A. QRM**
- B. QRN
- C. QTH
- D. QSB

Why do VHF signal strengths sometimes vary greatly when the antenna is moved only a few feet?

- A. The signal path encounters different concentrations of water vapor
- B. VHF ionospheric propagation is very sensitive to path length
- C. Multipath propagation cancels or reinforces signals**
- D. All these choices are correct

**Last Minute Changes
Good Morning,
all from our meeting
planner,
AF5EI, Jim**

Our next club meeting is Thursday the 13th. Charlie, N5EH, has suggested that rather than making a donation to the church, everyone attending the meeting bring a non-perishable food item for their free food pantry. The meeting will start at 6pm. Food and fellowship will start about 5pm. I still need a headcount. Have had only four responses wanting to eat. The menu will be ham, potatoes and veggies. Sharon, KF5DAD, is providing the food.

Comments, suggestions and ideas? Send them to me at AF5EI@AF5EI.com.

Guest speaker for our APRIL meeting has been booked. Steve Beavers, Director of Emergency Services and 911, will do the honors.

Jim AF5EI@AF5EI.com

**Arkansas Diamond Club Members maybe
WE ARE WORKING ON THE
MEMBERSHIP LIST**

Roger Alabach KF5SDE
Walter Barfield W5WRB
Kelly Boswell KA5MGL
Will Cody KG5MMH
Billy Collins III K8BBC (6/22)
George Cossey K5GOC
Charles Drinkwater KG5AUV (6/22)
Dave Huett WB5RUH
Jeffery Johnson WB5QWN
Timothy King K5BXM
Matthew King KG5QNY

Jeremy Landon N5JKL
Robert Lanning K5ZZB
John Lawrence KI5DBS (2023)
D'Ann Lindstrom KI5APK
Greg Lindstrom K5GSL
Lynda Milligan KG5UFT
Bill Mooney Jr, W5WMM
Kathleen Moorman KI5QJS
Michael Moorman KC5MM
Richard Neal KF5IY
Stewart Nelson KD5LBE
James Scott K5NWS (6/21)
Adam Sullivan W2SUL
Jim Taylor AF5EI
Joe Taylor KF5DIH
Jim Wiedower AC5RT
Daniel Weatherly N5DD
George Carrol N5GC
Clyde Armstrong SR KE5YPZ
Rachel Beavers KF5MAD
Steve Beavers KF5DIF
Richard Cate KI5GUJ
Sharon Clarkson KG5DAD
Bruce Curtis W5ATC
Don Dacus K5SEC
Hugh Donnell KF5EST
Joe Dube KF5ESP
Eichenberger KF5IJA
Clifford Evans KI5ITD
Karolczak KF5UDD
Carlos Lott KI5GWB
Mike Martin KC5YWN
Terry Martin K5TGZ
Mc Dearmon KC5EIK
Bobby Moses AC5RM
George Peters KI5HOV
James Ridling WB5RZR
Jeffery Ridling KE5UAN
Sean Rikard W5RKD
Kirk Rose KF5ITM
Eric Stricklin AG5EI
Lenny Stroud KF5DIB
Anita Tienken AA3AT
Louis Tienken AA9BT
ShellyTienken KF5SBG
Charles Tudor N5EH
Wayne Van De Pol N2WV
Jimmy Wiedower KD5YZD
Mike Karolczak KF5UDD

If you are missing OR CAN'T READ
contact [<AF5EI@AF5EI.COM>](mailto:AF5EI@AF5EI.COM)